



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Legacy  
Management

August 20–23, 2018  
Grand Junction, Colorado

## 2018 Long-Term Stewardship Conference

# Visitors Center and Interpretive Services Elevate Visitor Experience at the Fernald Preserve, Ohio, Site

Sue Smiley

DOE Office of Legacy Management

Session: Track 4.1: Interpreting the Past and Informing the  
Future: A Fresh Look at History and the Preservation of  
Information Critical for LTS and Forthcoming Generations



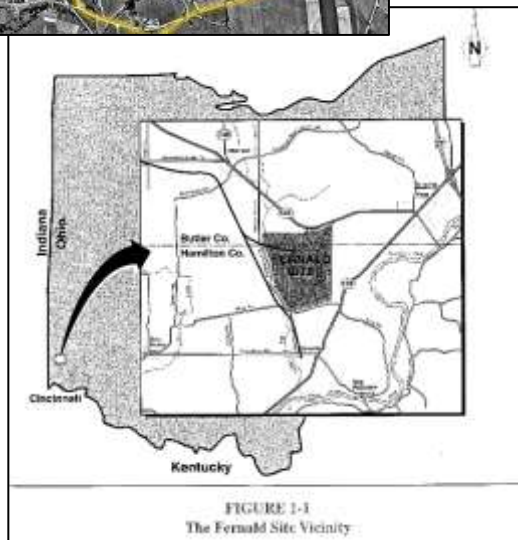
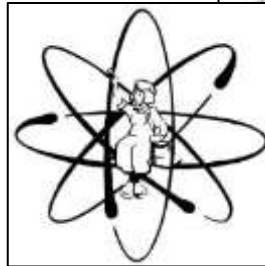
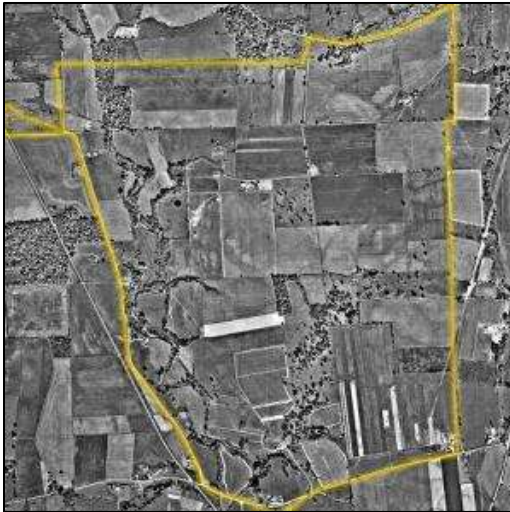
# Contributors

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Navarro Research & Engineering, Inc.



# Fernald Preserve





# Remediation





# Legacy Management





# Interpretive Services

- Help visitors put changes into historical and geographical context
- Creates connections





# Fernald Preserve Visitors Center

- Requested by stakeholders involved in developing recommendations for final land use
- A decision was made to maintain the Fernald site as an undeveloped park with an emphasis on wildlife
- A visitors center was designed to meet the following needs:
  - To tell the site's story through exhibits
  - To recognize the contributions of Cold War-era workers
  - To serve as a resource for contemporary and historic site information
  - To accommodate site related interpretive programs
  - To provide accessible meeting space for nonprofit community groups



# Visitors Center Exhibits





# Knowledgeable Interpretive Services Staff



**Open seven days a week,  
7:00 a.m. to dusk.**



*"As a community asset, the Fernald Preserve will foster wildlife habitat and provide educational opportunities through environmental stewardship."*



**Visitors Center is open Wednesday–Saturday  
from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Enjoy seven miles of hiking trails, free history and nature programs,  
and a state-of-the-art Community Meeting Room.

For additional information, email [fernaldd@lm.doe.gov](mailto:fernaldd@lm.doe.gov) or call (513) 648-3330.  
Visit the website at [www.lm.doe.gov/fernaldd](http://www.lm.doe.gov/fernaldd) for directions and calendar of events.



**Fernald  
Preserve**  
7400 Willey Road  
Hamilton, Ohio 45013



**Milkweeds for Monarchs Trail**

**Follow the  
Milkweeds for  
Monarchs Trail**

**Wednesday, May 9,  
through Saturday, May 12**  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.


**Wednesday, May 16,  
through Saturday, May 19**  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 23,  
through Saturday, May 26**  
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Stop by the Visitors Center for a quiz  
and earn a milkweed coupon.



# Programs



November 2017

**Month-at-a-Glance**

*All programs begin in the Visitors Center*

**Western Saw-Whet Owl Banding Station**  
Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4 • Call to register  
Sign up for a nighttime program at our research station on landing owls  
who roost in their maple roosts. You will learn about the banding  
process and the data collected from these efforts. Plot on a map, make  
data entries, and bring a flashlight. Registration is required. Call (513) 648-3330 for more details and registration.

**Free Native Trees for Wildlife**  
Wednesday through Saturday, November 8 to 11 and  
November 15 to 16 • 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Help us and help the native Turkey Vulture. If you can find all the  
clues to complete a scavenger hunt along the path and receive a free native  
tree seedling. Seating not required for native tree seed. Support available by  
donating a tree at home that provides food and cover.

**A Female Sound Walk**  
Friday, November 17 • 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Help Betsy, a bear companion and artist, will let her guide. Walk begins with  
an introduction to listening skills. Walk moves slowly at an easy pace and  
activity takes for about an hour. Join if you want to experience the end. This  
long listening activity will inspire your ears.

**7th Annual Walk Your Stuffing Off!**  
Friday, November 24, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
If you grab the stuffed animal you love, if you are one too many stuffed  
of you, or if the gray and white stuffed animal you love, you'll want  
to join us for the 7th Annual Stuffed Animal Walk. Walk off some of those stuffed  
at a brisk pace or take it easy through the sunny fields at the Fernald Preserve.  
Please wear comfy shoes.

Email: [info@fernalddiscovery.org](mailto:info@fernalddiscovery.org) or call (513) 648-3330 for more information on Fernald Preserve activities.  
[www.fernalddiscovery.org](http://www.fernalddiscovery.org)

Fernald Preserve Visitors Center  
7400 Willey Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013





April 2018

**Month-at-a-Glance**

*All programs begin in the Visitors Center*

**A Ribbiting Experience**  
Friday, April 20 • 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Join us for a night of fun and learning. We'll be out on the trails during a short night  
presentation. Information will be given to the visitors for a fun and  
educational experience. Please bring a flashlight.

**Overcast Day**  
Saturday, April 21 • 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
We are all about the weather. Join us for a fun and educational program. We'll be  
out on the trails during a short presentation. Information will be given to the  
visitors for a fun and educational experience. Please bring a flashlight.

**Hummingbirds**  
Sunday, April 22 • 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Join us for a fun and educational program. We'll be out on the trails during a  
short presentation. Information will be given to the visitors for a fun and  
educational experience. Please bring a flashlight.

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# Meeting Spaces





**TRAILS MAP**

A network of trails developed at the U.S. Department of Energy's Fortwell Preserve offers visitors to enjoy and observe nature while enjoying a scenic view up-close look at various habitats and ecosystems that exist throughout the site.

The Fortwell site is a brown water-producing facility that has undergone environmental cleanup in order standards established by neighbors and surrounding communities. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State DHE approved the standards to be protective of human health and the environment.

Creating ecological recreation is accomplished using regulatory criteria in southeastern Ohio. The Fortwell Preserve contains 195 acres of forest, 350 acres of prairie, and grasslands, 60 acres of open water, 41 acres of wetlands, and 53 acres of wetlands.

Over 7 miles of trails meander through the Fortwell Preserve. Trails range in length offering and highlights Short, Big, good trails around the Virginia-Carolina state line of the hickory forest area, the brown production area, and natural areas including the contributions made by the Fortwell site employees during the Oak Mill Lodge Trail with several forest trails at the Virginia-Carolina state line and the north and south boundaries of the site. Natural ecosystems, a running trail, and a boardwalk provide additional opportunities to observe a diverse array of plants, birds, and other wildlife.



# Signage





# Offsite Community Outreach



2018 LTS Conference



# Learning From The Past, Moving Into The Future





# Questions?

